

ALABAMA.

BETHLEHEM

BAPTIST

ASSOCIATION,

1886.

OFFICERS:

G. R. FARNHAM, MODERATOR	Evergreen, Ala.
Y. M. RABB, CLERK	Evergreen, Ala.
E. C. MILNER, TREASURER	Georgiana, Ala.

Executive Committee:

G. R. FARNHAM	Evergreen, Ala.
J. W. LESLIE	Monroeville, Ala.
E. P. LOVELESS	Brewton, Ala.

The next meeting of the Association will be held with the Pilgrim's Rest Church, at Brewton, Escambia county, Ala., commencing on Tuesday after the 4th Sunday in September, 1887.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.
THE ALABAMA PRESS PRINT.
1886

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Appoint Committee to Read Letters.
 2. Names of Delegates enrolled.
 3. Election of Officers.
 4. Appoint Committee on Preaching.
 5. Recognize Messengers from Corresponding Bodies.
 6. Invitation to Ministers of the Gospel present, not accredited to the body, to sects with us.
 7. Appointment of Committees to report during the Session.
 8. Reports of Committees appointed at the last Session.
 9. Appointment of Committees to report at the next Session.
 10. Reports of Committees of the present Session.
 11. Motions and Resolutions.
 12. Miscellaneous Business.
 13. Appoint time and place of next meeting.
 14. Treasurer's Report.
 15. Disbursements of funds on hand.
-

ORDAINED MINISTERS.

J. E. Bell, Butler county	Georgiana, Ala.
B. H. Crumpton, Conecuh county	Evergreen, Ala.
E. Clines, Monroe county	Bellville, Ala.
J. E. Deer, Escambia county	Brewton, Ala.
R. J. Draughorn, Monroe county	Perdue Hill, Ala.
J. L. Eddins, Monroe county	Perdue Hill, Ala.
John H. Higdon, Conecuh county	Evergreen, Ala.
John Holly, Butler county	Georgiana, Ala.
W. H. Joiner, Conecuh county	Sepulga, Ala.
W. A. Locke, Monroe county	Perdue Hill, Ala.
J. L. Lowrey, Escambia county	Brewton, Ala.
A. J. Lambert, Baldwin county	Perdue Hill, Ala.
G. E. Mize, Butler county	Georgiana, Ala.
John McWilliams, Monroe county	Monroeville, Ala.
B. J. Skinner, Monroe county	Burnt Corn, Ala.
I. Spence, Conecuh county	Evergreen, Ala.
*Jacob Smith, dead	Brewton, Ala.
J. L. Taylor, Butler county	Georgiana, Ala.
*J. M. Travis, dead	Evergreen, Ala.
J. A. White, Conecuh county	Brooklyn, Ala.
J. B. F. Watts, Conecuh county	Evergreen, Ala.
J. M. Wood, Conecuh county	Brooklin, Ala.

*Died since last association.

NOTE.—If there should be any omissions in the above list, it is for want of information.

CLERK.

—✻MINUTES✻—

SALEM, September 4th, 1886.

The Bethlehem Baptist Association assembled in the Salem Baptist Church, Monroe county, Alabama, and at 10 o'clock was called to order by the Moderator, G. R. Farnham. After singing, and prayer by J. L. Eddins and the reading of a portion of Scripture, prayer was offered by B. J. Skinner.

The Moderator appointed W. B. Kemp, C. S. Rabb and W. A. Loveless to enroll the names of the Delegates, who reported as follows:

FIRST DISTRICT.

- Claiborne.*—W. D. Lambert, L. R. Carter and Jas. Thames.
Enon.—N. A. McNeal.
Monroeville.—J. W. Leslie, W. S. Rikard, Jno. Deloach, W. S. Wiggins.
Olive Branch.—H. G. Brown, J. T. Long.
Philadelphia.—W. T. Nettles, J. T. Newberry, W. B. Kemp.
Pleasant Ridge.—John Buford, E. T. Andrews.
Poplar Springs.—Martin Duse, David Dewise.
Pleasant Hill.—Not represented.
Ramah.—J. Powell, A. P. Thames.
Salem.—W. J. Newberry, G. W. Thompson, B. F. Dulany, L. A. Hendrick.
Zion.—W. A. Locke, W. A. Fountain, C. C. McWilliams, R. N. Weston.
Union.—M. W. Middleton.

SECOND DISTRICT.

- Arkadelphia.*—S. L. Stokes, Jeff. Ellis, Geo. Lec.
Bethany.—B. J. Skinner, L. R. Riley, D. H. Lee, Thomas Morton.
Brownsville.—Daniel Giddens.
Bellville.—Geo. R. Stamps, Wm. Dunklin, R. H. Riggs, H. A. Riggs, James Ballard.
Cedar Creek.—R. C. Kirkland, W. M. Gray.
Fairfield.—W. S. House, C. A. Cinquefield, T. J. Deer, A. J. Curlee.
Pilgrims' Rest.—E. P. Loveless, W. A. Loveless.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Antioch.—D. B. Williams, J. M. Davison, Henry Lee.

Bethel.—G. A. Riley.

Bethesda.—J. L. Eddins.

Brushy Creek.—C. L. Fail, T. C. Mix.

Brooklyn.—C. A. Thames, J. A. McCall, H. N. Raburn, C. D. Powell.

Catawba Springs.—Thomas Godwin, W. A. Johnson, M. Crosby.

Damascus.—Not represented.

Evergreen.—B. H. Crumpton, G. R. Farnham, Y. M. Rabb, C. S. Rabb, Jas. T. Fincher.

Georgiana.—E. C. Milner.

Johnsonville.—J. M. Wood.

Long Branch.—Not represented.

Mt. Carmel.—Not represented.

New Hope.—Millard Morgan, Thomas A. Countryman.

New Prospect.—W. M. Phillips, H. W. Powell.

Old Town.—I. Spence, J. J. Spence.

Oak Grove.—M. Stacy, Jesse Eager, Joseph Rolly.

Point Pleasant.—S. W. Lowery, R. S. Smith.

Mars Hill.—T. W. Finkling, A. Boon.

Midway.—Wm. Snowden, J. C. Anthony, T. J. Driver.

Sepulga.—E. Barlow, J. P. Kelly, G. I. Blair.

Brewer's Creek.—John W. Joiner.

John W. Leslie, I. Spence and E. C. Loveless were appointed tellers for the election of officers of the body, and after the vote was taken, reported G. R. Farnham, Moderator; Y. M. Rabb, Clerk; and E. C. Milner, Treasurer.

The Moderator appointed the Committee on Devotional Exercises, to-wit: J. T. Fincher, W. T. Nettles, Wm. Dunklin and the Pastor and Deacons of Salem Church.

CORRESPONDENCE.

T. M. Riley, messenger from the Pine Barron Association; J. J. D. Renfroe, as representative of the Alabama Baptist.

On motion, a committee of three, to-wit: B. H. Crumpton, I. Spence and C. S. Rabb, were appointed to read the letters from the Churches to the Association.

Adjourned until 1.50 P. M.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by J. J. D. Renfroe.

The committee read the Church Letters to the body, and statistics noted. (See tabular statement.)

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance.—Jno. DeLoach, R. H. Riggs, C. S. Rabb.

State of Religion.—I. Spence, Wm. Dunklin, J. L. Eddins.

Queries and Requests.—E. P. Loveless, J. T. Fincher and Thos. Countryman.

Reports of committees appointed at the last session:

On Missions.—Bro. B. J. Skinner made the report, which was ordered to be laid on the table until Monday morning.

The report on Women's Work was received and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON WOMAN'S WORK.

There is in current literature a trite, but true saying—in fact, it has passed into a proverb—"The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world." Never was epigram more terse, nor aphorism more comprehensive.

The hand that models the clay, leaves indelible impress in marble and granite. The stamp upon the child becomes the seal of the nation. Action, habit, character—destiny are all turned from one common mold. The hand that plucked the forbidden fruit "shall pierce a sword through her own soul also; that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."—(Luke, 2-35). It is but natural and right, and it is also scriptural, that the hand which was first raised in defiance and turned against God, should most firmly point heavenward, and most joyfully lead back to God.

What is "Woman's Work?" Yea, what has woman not done! First in transgression; first in sorrow and suffering; first in joy over the incarnate Son of God; first in ministering to his necessities; first in fidelity at the cross; first at the tomb; first to worship the risen Lord; first in faith—"O, woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt." And first in love and sacrifice—"She hath done what she could." It is certainly reasonable and right, then, that we should have the faith, love, sacrifice, fidelity, and guiding hand of woman to impart virtue and consistency, and give irresistible momentum to christian endeavor. Where, then, is "woman's sphere?" What is her desire? What position shall be accorded her? What is her relation to worldly enterprise and christian work? "The hand that rocks, rules." She, who first proudly and defiantly aspired to be highest, now, in sweet humility claims the lowest room. Her position, her sphere is that of her own choosing, and it was ratified by the Son of God. "She hath chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her."

O mothers, wives, daughters of the Bethlehem Association! Here is your sphere—the choice, the pursuit, the faithful performance of the "good part." It is your prerogative to elicit, combine and direct the moral-mind forces of the world. It is your privilege to lead, your right to rule—not by the word, but in the deed; not with the sword of authority, but the sceptre of love. God would have you realize your high calling. The needs of the hour demand the complement of your mission. "The Master is come, and calleth for thee."

Brethren, is not the fault much our own that woman has not been discharging her full measure of duty? Until within the last half-dozen decades, who asked or expected woman's work in evangelization to be more than incidental? Have we not demanded her approval rather than her cooperation? Where do the Scriptures teach that she should be a hearer

simply? Why should not she be a *doer* of the word? God did not create her an apurance, but a help-mate for man. What, but the demand for women and their hearty response, has produced this mighty upheaval in modern missionary enterprise, which has sent a gigantic tidal wave rolling and throbbing against the hoary cliffs of heathenism in every clime, and which are now tottering and fast crumbling in ruins. "That the earth may be full of the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Woman as well as man is a factor whose exponent is infinity. Wheresoever this Gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this *woman* hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Paul's entreaty was, "Help those women which labored with me in the Gospel." Brethren, don't ask their help. They are ready to lend it. But *encourage and help them*.

Your committee would state that we have no statistics to present; neither do we offer any resolutions. The department of "Woman's Work" has been fairly organized within the bounds of this Association, and what we want is not more "resolutions," but energetic prosecution. A report is desired and expected from the President of the Central Committee of Woman's Work appointed last year, during the present session. The President's report, doubtless, will present such statistics and facts as would render them unnecessary in this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. WHITE,
W. N. BRAUNER,
W. H. FOUNTAIN.

The report on Ministerial Education was received as follows :

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

Much might be said on the methods of *Ministerial Education*, but we are disposed to leave that feature of the subject with those parties to whom this important work may be entrusted.

The *necessity for the work*, and *what has been done*, and *is proposed to be done*, in this direction are the points for our consideration as a body.

The *necessity for the work* will appear from the *growing demand* for it on the part of the people. This may be right, or it may be wrong, but it is nevertheless true, and calls for consideration. The time has been when many country churches were almost afraid to receive into their midst a man of intellectual culture—were suspicious of him. Now, if heart culture has kept pace with head culture, an educated servant of God is welcomed in any church. Not only so, but in many localities, there is even too much of a tendency to lay aside the hitherto useful servants of God, and reach out after men above their ability to maintain. It is not the purpose of this committee to discuss this subject in this report, but simply to advert to the fact so palpable as to demand only its announcement.

This being so perceptibly true, this same *necessity* is discoverable in the *almost universal thirst for literary training* on the part of the young men entering the ministry. With but few exceptions, they seem unwilling to undertake the work without some head preparation. As to the correctness or incorrectness of this feeling, we do not offer a comment, but the fact is patent, and calls for consideration.

As to the *abvisability of Ministerial Education*, your committee are decidedly of the opinion that, with proper restrictions, it is both practicable and scriptural; no one will deny that a knowledge of text books, coupled

with the mental discipline received in a good school, enables any man to think and analyze more easily, and hence the more pointedly and plainly to present any truth. Education does not create genius, but it surely aids it. It does not create a knowledge of God's truth, it facilitates its pursuit, and aids its presentation. Again; if Paul's direction to Timothy to "study," to show himself "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God, giving to each his portion in due season," was at all proper, it was no less proper to have advised study under a suitable instructor to hasten on his knowledge.

What has been done? Last session there were fourteen young ministers in Howard College, at Marion, supported by the charities of the denomination, in pursuit of literary knowledge. There were some others at other schools in different parts of the State. This money was raised mostly by a Board of Education, appointed by our State Convention, located at Birmingham, Ala., who performed most excellent and faithful service. Brother R. M. Guy, was the appointee of this Association last year, who attended the school at Evergreen, for about six months, made some progress, and is now a pastor of some churches, and giving general satisfaction. The school charged \$2,00 per month tuition, and his house rent was \$— per month.

The Board of Education was continued by the Convention, but because of the resignation of the old Board, it was transferred to Montgomery, and a new board appointed, with Rev. M. B. Wharton, DD., as president.

These are to seek out all young aspirants after literary knowledge, who give evidence of a Divine call to the ministry, and raise funds for their support while in pursuit of an education. We do most earnestly commend to this Association for their sympathy and support, this Board of Education at Montgomery, and recommend that any and all moneys raised for this purpose shall be reported to them, if not passed immediately through their hands.

B. H. CRUMPTON,
W. A. LOCKE,
G. W. THOMPSON,
Committee.

The Executive Committee reported, which was ordered to be laid on the table until Monday morning and be discussed in connection with the Report on Missions.

Religious Exercises reported, to wit: 10 o'clock Sunday morning:

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

11 o'clock preaching by Dr. J. J. D. Renfroe; 2:30 o'clock preaching by B. H. Crumpton; 7: 30 o'clock preaching by I. Spence.

Then the Association adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, September 5th.

The brethren preached in the order of their appointments, except that Bro. W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of the State

Mission Board, filled Bro. I. Spence's appointment at 7:30 o'clock.

At the close of the 11 o'clock service a collection was taken for associational purposes, amounting to \$301.25.

MONDAY MORNING, 9 O'CLOCK, September 6.

Prayer by I. M. Wood.

The Moderator appointed the following committees to report at our next session: .

On Sabbath Schools.—E. C. Milner, J. T. Fincher, C. A. Cinquefield, T. W. Finckling, and J. P. Kindall.

On Woman's Work.—J. W. Leslie, C. D. Powell, J. P. Kelly, John DeLoach, J. D. Nettles, L. R. Carter.

Denominational Education.—W. T. Nettles, W. B. Kemp, I. Spence, W. J. Newbury, A. T. Johnson.

On Missions.—B. H. Crumpton, C. A. Thames, J. L. Eddens, A. C. Lambert, H. G. Brown.

On Temperance.—E. P. Loveless, C. S. Rabb, G. W. Stamps, P. M. Smith, D. B. Williams.

On Ministerial Education.—B. J. Skinner, W. S. Wiggins, W. A. Loveless, W. J. Dunklin.

Denominational Literature.—(present Session) W. A. Locke, L. R. Riley, W. S. House.

W. B. Crumpton, Secretary of the State Mission Board was recognized and invited to a seat with us.

The report of the chairman of the central committee on Woman's Work was presented, read, and after being fully discussed by G. R. Farnham, B. H. Crumpton, W. B. Crumpton and B. J. Skinner, was ordered printed as follows:

REPORT

Of Mrs. G. R. Farnham, president, of the Central Committee on Woman's Work for Bethlehem Association, during last Associational year.

The following Ladies' Missionary Societies, most of which were organized since the last meeting of this Association, have reported as follows, to-wit:

Arkadelphia Church—

For State Missions.....	\$ 1 10	
For Home Missions.....	1 20	2 30

Evergreen—			
For Home Missions paid B. F. Riley.....	8 50		
Sent to Cuba Mission.....	25 00		
Sent to build Church in San Angelo, Texas.....	50 00		
Total for Home Missions.....	\$ 83 50		
For State Mission Work paid over to ex-Committee of Association.....	25 00		
Cash now sent for Foreign Mission	5 00	5 00	
Total.....	\$ 113 50		
Fairfield—			
State Missions	2 65		
Home Missions.....	1 52		
Foreign Missions.....	2 03		
Ministerial Education.....	65	6 85	
Georgiana—			
Foreign Missions (sent to Dr. Tupper).....	12 00		
Cash sent to Association by delegates.....	6 65	6 65	
Amount whole fund brought forward.....	141 30		
Amount of actual cash now sent up to Association...	20 80		

Two other societies are organized but have not reported any work, to-wit : Brooklyn and Garland Claiborne reported since this report was made, paid finance committee \$8 50.

Having been appointed at the last Association, president of the Central Committee on Woman's Missionary Work, I immediately set out to encourage the organization of societies in each church in the Association, and in order to do *this*, obtained from the State Central Committee, at Montgomery, printed forms of rules and regulations for organizing such societies. These I sent out to most of the churches, and as the result, succeeded in organizing as many societies as above reported. While my efforts seem poorly rewarded in the aggregate, yet I feel profoundly grateful for the cooperation I have met with in those churches that have united with me in this work, and think we have much to encourage us to greater efforts in the future. The little done shows how much can be done by united effort in all the churches. May I not then beg the cooperation of *all* my sisters in *every* church, and for a more zealous prosecution of the work, would make the following suggestion—that each church organize a society *at once*, have definite time for meeting, and plan for work, report work and send up collections at end of each quarter, for which purpose blanks will be furnished free of charge on application.

In conclusion, I would urge more *personal* effort. Let each one feel it a *privilege* as well as duty to do something for our Master, and remember, my christian friends, the reward will not be according to the greatness of our giving, but shall be measured by its spirit, and the sacrifice we make, for God has promised to bless even the "mite," if given in the spirit, "she hath done what she could." Hoping to have a more encouraging report to present from all our churches next year, and begging the prayers and cooperation of all christians in all the churches for the ensuing year.

Respectfully submitted in christian love,

M. FARNHAM.

Evergreen, Sept. 2nd, 1886.

On motion, a committee of three, consisting of E. P. Loveless, C. S. Rabb and J. W. Leslie, were appointed to ascer-

tain the wishes of the members of the Association as to the time of meeting of our next Session, and report the same to this body.

On motion, the report on "Mission" and "Executive Committee" was taken from the table and discussed by B. J. Skinner, G. R. Farnham, B. H. Crumpton and others, until a motion was made and carried to adjourn until 1:30 p. m.

MONDAY AFTERNOON 1:30 P. M., September 6.

The consideration of the report on Missions and Executive Committee was resumed and further discussed.

After a motion to amend, the report on Missions being sustained, the reports were adopted.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

Your committee in bringing before you the great cause of missions, do so with mingled feelings of joy and regret. We rejoice to see the success of this work wherever it is vigorously prosecuted, whether at home or abroad. Within the last century wonderful things have been accomplished by the earnest labors of missionaries; for which we thank God and take courage. The number of converts gathered by the workers sent out by our Southern Baptists is cause for special rejoicing. The field is ever widening, and the demands upon our liberality are constantly growing.

The Foreign Board has 78 missionaries laboring in Mexico, Brazil, Italy, China and Africa. The Home Board has 255 laborers at work in the Southern States and the Indian Territory. A glorious work begun in Cuba has been committed to this Board.

Our State work under the personal supervision of our Secretary, W. B. Crumpton, is gradually moving forward.

We regret that want of facts prevents us making such a report as we desire upon the work in our own Association. We hear that a good work has been done in the eastern portion of the field, but regret to say that the western portion has not yet received the attention it needs, and that which we believe it will soon receive. With profound regret and no little shame, we sum up the meagre contributions of our churches for this cause; some do little, some less, and some nothing. Why this? Alas! is it not for want of a spirit of Christian love for this work. In view of this fact, that a local board tends to narrow the interest, and that a different one tends to widen it, we suggest that hereafter the Executive Committee consist of three earnest and discreet brethren, one from each district of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

B. J. SKINNER,
E. C. MILNER,
J. L. EDDINS,
W. J. DUNKLIN,
Committee.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

We, the undersigned Executive Committee appointed at the last Association to take such steps as their judgement and experience might suggest of

further the evangelistic and all other Mission Work in this Association, submit the following report, to-wit :

After discussing different plans, we decided to appeal to each church to take some action as to making monthly contributions to be sent up to our Treasurer from time to time, and by him disbursed under the direction of the committee. For this purpose we issued circulars to the Pastors and Deacons of all the churches, and requested them to take immediate action and report. We regret to say that very few paid any attention to our request. We then decided to employ Rev. I. Spence to enter upon the work as evangelist within this Association, hoping thereby to stir up the churches to some action, and at the same time to learn more of the actual needs of the field. Bro. Spence began his work in January, 1886, or rather in December, 1885; first making a survey of the entire field and distributing the subjoined circular letter as he went.

On his return he made a report, and we felt encouraged to continue the plan, hoping and praying that God would open the eyes and hearts of his people to the importance of the work. We append a tabular statement showing in detail the work of each month.

We regret to say that we did not receive that hearty co-operation on the part of our brethren that we expected, and we therefore make no suggestions or recommendations, and ask to be relieved from further duty as an Executive Committee.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Bethlehem Association, appointed at its last meeting.

MONTHS.	Churches visited.	Sermons preached	Sunday Schools organized.	Ladies' Miss. So. organized.	Visits to Families, &c.	Miles traveled in the work.	Receiv'd by Letter.	Restored.	Baptized.	Received by collection from the field and the Committee.
First.....	24	27	9	8	..	325	..	..	..	..
Second.....	9	16	1	..	25	216	..	..	..	..
Third.....	5	18	2	..	43	108	..	..	1	..
Fourth.....	5	10	1	..	35	106	..	..	..	..
Fifth.....	1	24	1	..	38	110	4	2	9	..
Sixth.....	3	30	..	..	27	154	..	3	24	..
Seventh.....	5	56	1	..	41	180	1	..	17	118 05
Total.....	52	181	15	8	209	1199	5	5	51	\$ 118 05

Bro. Wm. A. Locke, Chairman of Special Committee appointed at the last session to inquire into the cause of some of the churches failing to be represented at our meetings, reported as follows:

Your Committee beg leave to report that we have communicated with some of the churches which have failed heretofore to represent themselves and report.

There are only two or three of these that have failed to have a representation at this Session.

W. A. LOCKE, Chairman.

The report on Sunday School was read, and after discussion, participated in by B. H. Crumpton, C. S. Rabb and R. J. Draughorn, was adopted.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee are gratified to report a rapid advance in the Sunday School work during the past twelve months. The interest in this cause has been steadily on the increase; new schools are being organized, fresh zeal aroused in the old, and all are earnestly searching for the most successful methods of instruction. The central thought of every christian heart seems to be, "How shall we best bring these young souls to Christ, and so train them that they may do worthy service in the Masters cause?" Earnest, consecrated, christian men and women, are being more and more deeply impressed with the consciousness that there is no service more christlike than the spiritual education of these young immortals, and are eager to give their time, their labor and their prayers, to those of whom the Saviour himself said, "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." The added impetus given to this important cause, in our own bounds, is due largely to the influence of the Convention work of the different counties, and of the District Convention, comprised of delegates from the counties of Conecuh, Escambia and Monroe. The object of these Conventions, which are interdenominational, is to further the Sunday School cause, by the reading of papers, discussions as to the best methods of work, and by prayer; and we cannot too strongly urge the importance of encouraging and maintaining so important a factor in this great department of christian labor.

May the good work go on, from strength to strength, until the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. W. LESLIE, Ch'n,

G. R. STAMPS,

J. T. NEWBERRY,

Committee.

The report on Temperance was read and discussed by E. P. Loveless and I. Spence, and adopted as follows:

Your Committee on Temperance beg leave to report, that we consider this as eminently a christian virtue, and the use of intoxicating liquors intemperate, and therefore unchristian-like, hurtful to the cause of the Master, and unbecoming in any church member. We feel that it is the duty of each church to inculcate and cherish this virtue by precept and example, and especially by prayer to Almighty God that we be delivered from the debasing influence of the demon of strong drink, which has entailed upon humanity more suffering, want and death, than war, pestilence and famine. We are glad to state from the best information that prohibition is rapidly gaining ground. Since our last report, Atlanta, Ga., and some other prominent cities have been carried for prohibition, and our own loved county would soon be rid of this monster if our own church members would take a solid stand against it. We are taught in the Word that one of the fruits "of the Spirit is temperance," again it says "wine is a mocker and strong drink

is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." Can we then claim those who favor the sale of whiskey, consistent christians? We say not, and the man that will walk up to the ballot box and cast his vote in favor of whiskey, can't be a friend to christianity or his country: he says by his vote, I want more bar rooms, less church houses and school houses, more drunkards, more widows and orphan children, more distress, more trouble, more crime, more courts, and heavier taxation. There are about seventy-five thousand that go down to a drunkard's grave and to Hell each year. Take in connection with this the sorrow, the distress, the bushels of tears that are shed, and it seems to us it is enough to cause any one outside of a demon to rise against this great monster of the land. And we your committee recommend that every church rid themselves of every member who would favor this monster in any way; and we recommend that ministers preach one or two sermons at their churches on the subject each year. Then, brethren, when we go to the ballot box let us vote as we preach and pray.

Respectfully submitted,

I. SPENCE, Chairman.

Finance Committee reported, as follows:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Statement of the Financial Operations of the Executive Committee of the Bethlehem Association for the year 1085-6.

DR.

To cash from Treasurer, E. C. Milner.....	\$ 56 30
To amount from Churches.....	73 03
	<hr/>
	\$129 33

CR.

By amount paid I. Spence, Evangelist.....	\$118 03
" converted by Herrington, late Treasurer.....	11 30—\$129 33

G. R. FARNHAM, Chairman.

The Treasurer made his report, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

E. C. MILNER, Treasurer, in account with the Bethlehem Association.

DR.

To amount Sabbath collection.....	\$ 25 00
Received from Finance Committee.....	301 30
" " " " vouchers.....	263 95
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$590 25

CR.

By amount paid I. Spence.....	231 95
" " Clerk.....	44 50
" to be paid Foreign Mission Board.....	24 90
" " Home Mission Board.....	24 95
" vouchers.....	263 95
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$590 25

E. C. MILNER, Treasurer.

On motion of B. J. Skinner the following resolution was adopted :

Resolved; That the Sabbath collection be appropriated to State Missions, and that the Treasurer be authorized to pay over the different funds in his hands to the various purposes for which said funds were contributed.

A petitional letter from Brewer's Creek Baptist Church was presented, asking admission into our body, which was referred to a committee consisting of B. H. Crumpton, B. J. Skinner and J. L. Eddins, who reported, favorable and the Brewer's Creek Church was recognized by extending the right hand of fellowship to her delegates, John W. Joiner.

The Committee on Denominational Literature reported as follows :

We the Committee on Denominational Literature beg leave to say that we have in the ALABAMA BAPTIST a paper worthy the patronage of every Baptist, and we hope that the day is not far distant when it will be in every Baptist house in the State. We recommend the Missionary Journal and the works of the Baptist Publication Society.

W. A. LOCKE,
L. RILEY.

The committee reported on Queries and Requests, and after striking out that portion of the report referring to form of church letter, their recommendation to hold the next session of this body with the Pilgrim's Rest Church, Brewton, Ala., was adopted.

The Special Committee appointed to ascertain the wishes of the body as to the most proper time of holding our next session, reported Tuesday after the 4th Sunday in September, which was adopted as the time of our next session.

Committee on State of Religion made the following report, which was adopted :

REPORT ON STATE OF RELIGION.

Your committee on State of Religion beg leave to report, that after an examination of the letters sent up by the churches, that there is an increase in the number of Sunday Schools; 26 reported this year against 19 last year. There are about 50 more accessions by baptism than at last report, and a small increase in the amount for missions.

Respectfully submitted,

I. SPENCE, Ch'n.

On motion of C. S. Rabb, B. H. Crumpton, B. J. Skinner and W. A. Loveless were appointed a committee to recommend three brethren to act as Executive Committee for the ensuing year, who reported J. R. Farnham, Jno. W. Leslie and E. P. Loveless as said Committee, which was by the Association adopted.

The following resolutions were adopted by the Association :

Resolved, That we have a County Sunday School Convention once a year, and an Associational Convention each year. The time and place to be made by the Executive Committee. I. SPENCE.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to the people of the community of Salem Church, for the hearty welcome and unbounded hospitality extended to this body during its session. JNO. W. LESLIE.

Resolved, That a committee of two ministers to act conjointly with the Executive Committee, be appointed to examine into the qualifications of applicants for Ministerial Education, and that the committee be empowered to take under consideration the propriety of adopting one as beneficiary, and proposing the methods of operation. B. H. Crumpton and J. E. Bell were appointed on the committee. B. H. CRUMPTON.

APPOINTED DELEGATES TO OTHER BODIES.

State Convention.—E. P. Loveless, B. J. Skinner, C. S. Rabb, G. R. Farnham, W. A. Locke.

Pine Barren Association.—J. W. Leslie, R. J. Draughorn, Y. M. Rabb, T. A. Countryman, A. King, J. H. Brown, D. H. Lee, W. A. Locke.

Elem Association.—E. P. Loveless, W. A. Loveless, Jas. A. McCall.

Zion Association.—E. C. Milner and C. D. Powell.

Bro. E. P. Loveless made a motion to strike from our list of Benevolence, fostered by our body, that of indigent ministers. After discussion by Bro. Loveless and R. J. Skinner and others, Bro. Loveless stated that his object was to call the attention of the body to their neglect of this important subject, and asked leave to withdraw the proposition.

Leave was granted, and a proposition was made by Bro. Skinner to have the regular order suspended, and a collection was taken up for the benefit of E. Clines, an aged minister within our Association, which resulted in the collection

of \$14.45, which was ordered paid over to Jno W. Leslie, and also the amount sent up by the churches for indigent ministers to be handed by him to Bro. Clines.

The Association closed its business and after singing "Sweet by and by," and extending the parting hand and the blessings of our Heavenly Father, asked by Bro. B. S. Skinner, upon our efforts, the Association adjourned to meet with Pilgrim's Rest Church at Brewton, Escambia County, Ala., on Tuesday after the 4th Sunday in September, 1887, at 11 o'clock A. M.

G. R. FARNHAM, Moderator.

Y. M. RABB, Clerk.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our union, who, on producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. II. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known by the name of the "Bethlehem Baptist Association," who shall usurp no authority over the churches, in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights, but shall be merely an advisory council in all matters relative to their internal concerns. It, nevertheless, claims authority over its own members, the delegates of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from, and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact, by becoming heterodox in faith or disorderly in practice. Its principal business shall be to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, especially with those united in this Association.

ART. III. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every twenty-five (or fractional part) over fifty members an additional delegate. Through them shall be transmitted to every annual session of this Association a letter, specifying the names of their messengers, number in fellowship, excommunicated, restored, deceased, licensed or ordained to preach the Gospel since last session; also postoffice; Sabbath of meetings; by whom supplied; amount paid pastor, and the amount contributed for the different benevolent objects fostered by this body, and the number, average and attendance at Sabbath Schools.

ART. IV. New churches may be admitted into our union by messengers bringing petitionary letters. If upon due examination they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. V. At every session of the Association a Moderator shall be elected by, and of the members present, whose duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A clerk shall be elected, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all the proceedings and discharge such other duties as may pertain to his office.

Also a Treasurer shall be elected whose duty it shall be to receive all money belonging to the Association and disburse it as directed by the body, and present annually for insertion in the Minutes a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. VI. The Association shall furnish the churches with the Minutes of every session in proportion to the Minute Fund sent up by each individual church.

ART. VII. Every query sent by a church must be enclosed in her letter certifying that they have endeavored to solve the same but failed. Nor will it take action on any difficulties between churches unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Mathew for settlement of personal difficulties, and have not been able to settle them. In such cases the Association shall take it under consideration, but the voice of the body shall be considered an advisory answer.

ART. VIII. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches by their delegates and paid over to the Committee on Finance. The committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund and pay it over to the Treasurer.

ART. IX. It shall be the duty of the Clerk of this Association to keep

a regular file of printed Minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. X. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper Rules of Decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. XI. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. At every annual meeting of this Association, immediately after the delegates' names are enrolled tellers shall be appointed by the Chair, and the Association shall proceed to choose from among their number a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, who are to hold their offices until new ones are chosen.
3. The Moderator shall take the chair every day at the hour to which the Association shall have adjourned on the preceding day ; shall immediately call the members to order, and on the appearance of a quorum shall cause the minutes of the preceding day to be read.
4. He shall preserve order and decorum ; may speak on points of order in preference to other members, rising from his seat for that purpose ; and shall decide questions of order, subject to an appeal from the Association by any two members, on which appeal no member shall speak more than once unless by leave of the Association.
5. He shall rise to put a question, but may state it sitting.
6. Questions shall be distinctly put ; those voting in the affirmative shall say aye, and those of contrary opinion, no. If the Moderator doubts, or a division be called for, the delegates shall divide ; those voting in the affirmative shall first arise from their seats, and afterwards those voting in the negative.
7. The Moderator shall appoint all committees, unless otherwise specially directed by the Association.
8. In all cases of election, the Moderator may vote ; in other cases, he shall not vote, unless the body be equally divided ; in that event he shall give the casting vote. He may speak on any question, provided he shall call some other member to the chair while he is speaking.
9. The Clerk shall enroll the names of the delegates, minute the proceedings of the body, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.
10. The Treasurer shall receive, account for, and pay out all moneys belonging to this body according to the instructions of the Association, and perform such other duties as the Association may direct.
11. When any member is about to speak or deliver any matter to the Association, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address the Moderator, and shall confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid personalities.
12. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgress the rules of the Association, the Moderator shall, or any member may, call him to order, in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down, unless permitted to explain ; and the Association shall, if appealed to, decide on the case, but without debate. If there be no appeal, the decision of the Chair shall be submitted to ; if the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed ; otherwise, he shall not be

permitted to proceed in case any member object, without leave of the Association.

13. When two or more members rise at once, the Moderator shall name the one who is to speak first.

14. No member shall speak more than once on the same question, without leave of the Association, unless he be the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending; in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

15. Every member who shall be in the house when a question is put, shall give his vote, unless the Association, for special reason, excuse him.

16. When a motion is made and seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair, or, if in writing, handed to the Moderator and read aloud, before debate.

17. Every motion shall be reduced to writing, if the Chair or any member desire it.

18. After a motion is stated by the Chair, or read aloud by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in possession of the body, but may be withdrawn, by leave of the Association, at any time before a decision or amendment.

19. When a question is under debate no motion shall be entertained, but to adjourn, to lay on the table, for the previous question, to postpone to a certain day, to commit or amend, to postpone indefinitely; which several motions shall, have precedence in the order in which they are arranged; and no motion to postpone to a certain day, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely, being decided, shall again be allowed during the session.

20. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, except the Association be engaged in voting.

21. On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order, arising after a motion is made for the previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

22. The previous question shall be in this form: "Shall the main question be now put?" It shall only be admitted when demanded by a majority of the members present; its effect shall be to put an end to all debate and bring the Association to a direct vote upon amendments reported by committee, if any, upon pending amendments, and then the main question.

23. No motion, or a proposition on a different subject from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

24. When a motion has once been made and carried in the affirmative, or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move a reconsideration thereof on the same or succeeding business day, and such motion shall take precedence over all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

25. No member shall absent himself from the house without leave of the Moderator, or leave the meeting without leave of the Association.

26. Should any member of this Association absent himself before the close of the session, without permission of the body, he shall be marked in the minutes as absent without leave.



FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA, 1886.

CHURCHES.	State Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Home Missions.	Indigent Ministers	Ministerial Education.	Colored Race.	Minutes.
Montgomery Hill.....		3 05	50				1 25
Little River.....							
Claiborne.....	19 05						1 10
Enon.....	5 00						1 00
Pleasant Hill.....	6 75						75
Poplar Springs.....	30						30
Philadelphia.....	5 00	4 50	4 00		5 00		2 00
Monroeville.....	12 00		3 00				2 00
Zion.....	9 55						2 50
Ramah.....	4 00						1 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	2 85						95
Bethany.....	6 00	4 00	6 25		4 00		1 75
Arkadelphia.....	4 00						1 40
Bellville.....	4 90	4 90	2 35		4 90		2 00
Catawba Springs.....	24 50						1 25
Pilgrim's Rest.....	6 58	6 56	6 56	1 00		7 65	2 00
Olive Branch.....	3 00		25				60
Fairfield.....	1 00	2 50					55
Mars Hill.....							1 00
Brownsville.....							
Cedar Creek.....							1 15
Antioch.....	5 00						1 50
Brooklyn.....	10 61	1 90	6 11		5 85	6 80	3 00
New Hope.....							1 60
Brushy Creek.....	9 40						75
Long Branch.....							
Georgiana.....	20 35	14 45	12 40		2 25		1 45
Old Town.....							
New Prospect.....	5 00						2 00
Bethesda.....							75
Evergreen.....	80 88	8 33	86 83		12 00		
Bethel.....	5 00						50
Johnstonville.....	50						60
Oak Grove.....							1 25
Point Pleasant.....	8 00						1 50
Mount Carmel.....							
Midway.....	7 50						1 25
Salem.....			1 20				2 25
Union.....							50
Sepulga.....	6 25						75
Mrs. S. Hixon.....	5 50						
Totals.....	\$ 278 47	\$76 87	\$ 129 43	\$ 1 00	\$34 00	\$14 45	\$44 50

STATISTICS OF BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, ALABAMA, 1886.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last reported.	INCREASE BY				DECREASE BY				Present Member-ship.	SUNDAY SCHOOL. Superintendent's Name.	Preaching Sabbath.	Pastors' Salaries.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Experience.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.				
Arkadelphia.....	Gonecuh	R. M. Guy	A. H. Stokes	Bellville	99	3	1			5			2	97			
Bellville.....	Conecuh	B. H. Crumpton	James Straughn	Bellville	117			1		2	1		2	112	G. R. Stamps	1	\$ 250 00
Bethany.....	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	J. P. Wadkins	Burnt Corn	52	5	5	1						62		4	150 00
Brownsville.....	Conecuh			Gravella	44												
Bethesda.....	Monroe	J. L. Eddins	M. C. Crumbie	Nero	44					4				40		1	
Brooklyn.....	Conecuh	J. A. White	L. J. Rabun	Brooklyn	100		2			5	2			71	H. M. Raburn	3	150 00
Bethel.....	Butler	W. H. Joiner	G. A. Riley	Shell	47	4	1			1	5			46	I. P. Kendall	4	25 00
Brushy Creek.....	Butler	J. L. Taylor	C. L. Tait	Georgiana	41	14	1			1	3	1		56	I. L. Taylor	1	
Beulah.....	Conecuh			Jayvilla	12												
Claiborne.....	Monroe	W. A. Locke	L. R. Carter	Perdue Hill	67					4	2	1		60	B. F. Carter	3	100 00
Cedar Creek.....	Conecuh	R. C. Kirkland	G. W. Kirkland	Castleberry	44		5			1				49	R. H. Conner	2	
Catawba Springs.....	Escambia		J. J. Jack on	Pollard	37	23		1						61	Wm. J. Jackson	2	
Damascus.....			L. W. Manning	Brooklyn	42												
Enon.....	Baldwin	A. J. Lambert	A. D. McNeil	Hollinger	18							2		16		1	40 00
Evergreen.....	Conecuh	B. H. Crumpton	J. W. Crook	Evergreen	135	66	22	3		5		5		206	G. R. Farnham	2&4	700 00
Fairfield.....	"	A. A. Sims	F. J. Dun	Betts	77	12	6			1		1		96	C. A. Cinquefield	2	125 00
Georgiana.....	Butler	J. E. Bell	J. M. Sims	Georgiana	98	61	2			5				160	I. M. Sims	2&4	300 00
Hamilton Hill.....	Monroe			Claiborne	15												
Johnsonville.....	Conecuh	R. M. Guy	C. C. Brawner	Brooklyn	17		2					1		17	C. C. Browner	1	50 00
Long Branch.....	"		J. L. Steely	Cohasset	51												
Little River.....	Baldwin			Mt. Pleasant													
Monroeville.....	Monroe	B. J. Skinner	J. DeLoach	Monroeville	64					2		1		61	J. W. Leslie	2	150 00
Mars Hill.....	Escambia	A. J. Lambert	J. E. Boon	Steadham	53		1	1	1	1	1	1		45	T. W. Fincklin		30 00
Mount Carmel.....	Butler	J. H. Howell	J. H. Howell	Garland	56												
Midway.....	Monroe	J. F. Bruner	John Harden	Riley	82	1	2			5		1		75		4	100 00
Olive Branch.....	Conecuh	Jehu Holly	J. B. Long	Gravella	60					2	4			71		2	60 00
Old Town.....	"	J. A. White	Frank Deer	Herbert	86	3				4	2			83	James Kelly	4	8 35
Oak Grove.....	Monroe	J. L. Eddins	M. Stacey	Monroeville	63	4	4			1	4			68	Elijah Hanks	3	
Philadelphia.....	"	B. J. Skinner	J. D. Nettles	Burnt Corn	107							1		106	W. F. Nettles	3	150 00
Pleasant Ridge.....	"	W. A. Locke	J. L. Smith	Monroeville	65		4			3	1			65	John R. Chandler	4	
Pleasant Hill.....	"	W. A. Locke	J. H. Moore	Perdue Hill	50	2	5			5				52		3	
Poplar Springs.....	"	A. J. Lambert	W. A. House	Perdue Hill	28	4						1		34		3	30 00
Pensacola.....	Florida		T. J. Davis	Pensacola	75												
Pilgrim's Rest.....	Escambia	J. E. Bell	A. F. Johnson	Brewton	84	27	5			11	1	2		102	M. A. Rabb	1	200 00
Point Pleasant.....	"	S. W. Lowry	D. J. Holland	Brewton	60	1				1	1	1		56		3	
Montgomery Hill.....	Baldwin	A. J. Lambert	T. H. Boyles	Mt. Pleasant													
New Prospect.....	Butler	Jehu Holly	H. F. Gumble	Tensaw	52	4	2			3				40		2	70 00
New Hope.....	Butler	Jehu Holly	H. F. Gumble	Georgiana	90	8	5			8				91		4	
Ramah.....	Conecuh	John Gray	M. A. Lane	Olivia	99			1	1	4		1		94		1	
Sepulga.....	Monroe	J. L. Eddins	T. H. Barnes	Burnt Corn	102	2					1	1		102	S. S. Talbert	4	50 00
Sepulga.....	Conecuh	J. A. Hyde	J. A. Hyde	Herbert	34	9	4			3	1			43	J. A. Hyde	1	
Salem.....	Monroe	W. A. Locke	J. W. Thompson	Perdue Hill	106	2				3		2		103		2	
Union.....	Conecuh	J. H. Higdon	M. A. Ray	Sepulga	79	6				6	1			90	J. C. Stuckey	4	
Zion.....	Monroe	W. A. Locke	C. C. McWilliams	Monroeville	109		6			1		4		110	J. L. Hurry	1	100 00
An'loch.....	Butler	S. Moore	E. H. Hudson	Bolling	72	4		1		6	4			66	J. W. Lang		
Brewer's Creek.....	Conecuh	W. H. Joiner	J. W. Brooks	Gravella										15			

